

DMME produces safety alerts, accident abstracts, and training materials to promote safety awareness and prevent accidents and injuries. These are available on DMM's website or by contacting DMM or your mine inspector. DMM inspectors are also available to assist with your training needs. These resources are there to help remind you and your workers of critical safety points.



#### Additional Information

For more information on the DMME's Topical Safety Campaign, please contact:

Division of Mineral Mining  
900 Natural Resources Dr.  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(434) 951-6310  
[www.dmme.virginia.gov](http://www.dmme.virginia.gov)

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has developed several award winning mine safety videos.

These videos were made possible through Grants from the Mine Safety and Health Administration and can be found on our website at: [www.dmme.virginia.gov](http://www.dmme.virginia.gov)

#### Mine Safety Videos:

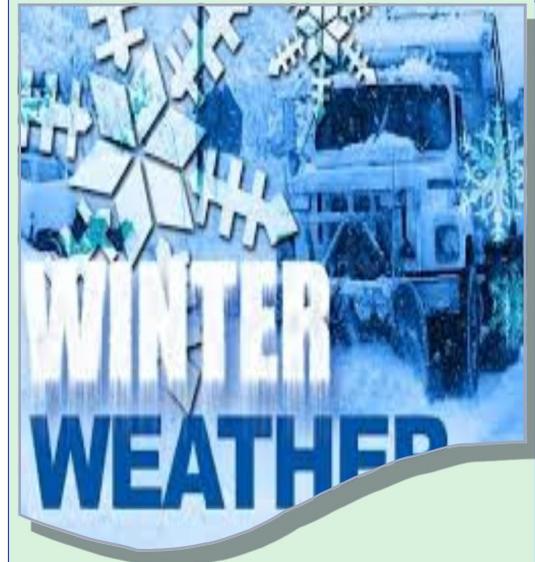
- ◆ The Right Choice
- ◆ Step Up To The Plate
- ◆ Lead The Way
- ◆ No Way Out
- ◆ The Miners' Bond

## MINERAL MINING

## WINTER ALERT



*Virginia Department of Mines,  
Minerals and Energy*



Mine Safety

Winter 2017-2018  
Safety Alert

## WINTER HAZARDS

Cold, wintry weather can make working conditions hazardous. Historically, there has been an increase in the number of serious injuries and fatalities during the fall and winter months.

The winter months often see a slowing and shifting of operations on mine sites. New construction, maintenance activities, and repair projects are usually scheduled during this time of year. As a result, miners may find themselves working in areas or performing duties that are unfamiliar. Contractors, often with little or no experience working on mine sites, may be brought in to complete various projects. These factors, including the colder temperatures and hazardous weather conditions, increase the potential for accidents and injuries to occur.

## VIRGINIA NEAR-MISS ACCIDENT

A dozer operator was in the process of clearing a bench when the left corner of the dozer caught solid material. This caused the dozer to turn sharply. The right side tracks went over the bench and caused the machine to turn over. The operator was not injured.



## SAFETY TIPS

- ⇒ Freezing and thawing conditions affect **highwall stability**. Watch for loose and falling rocks when working near highwalls. Never position yourself between equipment and highwalls.
- ⇒ Frost, ice, snow and mud on steps and catwalks increase **slip and fall hazards**. Use caution when traveling elevated walkways and mounting and dismounting equipment. Always use handrails and don't forget to use three points of contact.
- ⇒ Keep windshields, windows and mirrors on all mobile equipment free of **frost, ice, snow and mud** for a clear line of vision.
- ⇒ Icy and muddy conditions increase braking time and distance needed to **control heavy mobile equipment**. Equipment operators should think ahead when operating in these conditions. Remember: Always wear seatbelts when equipment is in motion.

## SAFETY TIPS - continued

- ⇒ Use caution when troubleshooting **batteries and jump-starting equipment**. Battery problems are common during winter weather. When jump starting equipment be sure to position yourself safely, use proper electrical connections and adequate size boosting cables, and wear proper protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.).
- ⇒ **Hypothermia** slows reaction time and can kill. Dress for the weather but watch heavy clothing that may interfere with your mobility, vision or hearing. Also, watch bulky clothing around electric heaters, open flames and machinery.



## MINE EMERGENCY SAFETY CHECK

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | Icy and muddy conditions increase braking time and distance needed to control heavy mobile equipment. |
| T | F | Frost, ice, snow and mud on steps and catwalks increase slip and fall hazards.                        |
| T | F | Freezing and Thawing conditions do not affect highwall stability.                                     |
| T | F | Keep windshields, windows and mirrors on all mobile equipment free from frost, ice and snow.          |
| T | F | Hypothermia slows reaction time but it can't kill you.  |
| T | F | Watch for loose and falling rocks when working near highwalls.  |
| T | F | Three point contact is not necessary in cold weather.   |
| T | F | Positioning yourself between equipment and highwalls is one of the safest places.                     |
| T | F | Seatbelts are not necessary when operating heavy equipment.   |
| T | F | Battery problems are common during winter weather.  |

Answers: T,F,T,F,T,F,T,F,F,T